

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 213166

FOLLOWING REPEAT USUN 3396 ACTION VIENTIANE INFO SECSTATE
PHNOM PENH 25 SEP

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 3396

SECTO 007

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH LAO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

1. SECRETARY RECEIVED LAO DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUMI
VONGVICHIT AT WLADORF SEPTEMBER 24. CONVERSATION COVERED
AID, LAO POSITION ON KHMER REPRESENTATION, AND MIA SEARCH.

2. ON AID, PHOUMI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR AID ALREADY
RECEIVED. SAID THAT LAOS WOULD NOW NEED ADDITIONAL
ASSISTANCE BECAUSE OF THE BURDENS OF RECONSTRUCTION,
REFUGEE RELOCATION, AND OF IMPROVING THE STANDARD OF LIVING
OF ITS PEOPLE. SECRETARY SAID THAT THE US WOULD TRY TO
CONTINUE AID AT PRESENT LEVELS BUT WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO
INCREASE IT THIS FISCAL YEAR BECAUSE CONGRESS WOULD NOT
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APPROPRIATE MORE MONEY. ADDED THAT US WOULD DO ALL IT COULD

TO ENCOURAGE OTHER DONORS TO MAKE LARGE CONTRIBUTIONS.
POINTED OUT THAT US PROVIDED MORE AID THAN ANY OTHER NATION.
PHOUMI REITERATED DEEP APPRECIATION AND EXPRESSED HOPE
THAT US WOULD DO THE BEST IT COULD.

3. ON KHMER REPRESENTATION, SECRETARY SAID HE HOPED LAOS
WOULD VOTE WITH US; SAID THIS WAS SUBJECT OF GREAT
IMPORTANCE TO US. SAID IT WOULD AFFECT US ATTITUDES,
INCLUDING THOSE OF THE CONGRESS, TOWARD ALL INDOCHINESE
COUNTRIES. PHOUMI SAID LAO POSITION NOT YET DECIDED BUT
WAS THE SUBJECT OF DISCUSSIONS WITHIN RLG CABINET. SAID
DECISION MIGHT HAVE TO AWAIT RETURN OF PRIME MINISTER TO
VIENTIANE. HE ADDED HE HAD MET WITH LONG BORET YESTERDAY
AND HAD TOLD HIM OF LAO EXPERIENCE IN GAINING PEACE AND
REUNIFICATION THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. REITERATED LAO
POLICY IS ONE OF FRIENDSHIP TOWARD ALL ITS NEIGHBORS.

4. SECRETARY OBSERVED THAT WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY
INFLUENCE PHOUMI COULD BRING TO BEAR TO HELP ON SEARCH
FOR US MIA. PHOUMI REPLIED THIS POINT IS WRITTEN INTO
LAOS ACCORDS AND SAID, ONCE THE COUNTRY IS AT PEACE,
ONE WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVEL IN GREATER SAFETY AND
THEREFORE HE BELIEVES THAT LAOS WILL BE ABLE TO DO THIS.

5. CONVERSATION CONCLUDED WITH PHOUMI ASKING SECRETARY
TO CONVEY GREETINGS TO PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY RESPONDING
IN KIND REGARDING SOUVANNA PHOUMA.
KISSINGER UNQUOTE

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